in Local Loop (WLL) technology for providing telephone facilities in rural areas of the country wherever line of sight is available. The range of WLL system is 25 km. radius. WLL system is cost effective, requires less maintenance compared to landline. Remote and isolated villages which could not be covered by any terrestrial technologies are planned to be provided on satellite media.

(c) Following technologies are being used for providing telephone facilities in rural areas of the country:

(i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.

(ii) Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX) deployed extensively in the country.

(iii) C-DOT Time Division Multiple Access-Point to Multi-Point (TDMA-PMP); the integrated switch and radio system for sparse rural population.

(iv) Landlines.

(v) Satellite.

(vi) Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) used earlier (now being replaced).

Allotment of telephone connections in H.P.

2569. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections have been allotted during the years 2001—03 in the villages and P.O. Sansai of District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh and how many registrants are in waiting list and the number of persons that have applied for fresh telephone connections;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of persons from village and P.O. Sansai have applied for the connections during the last year but they are not getting telephone connections; and

(c) the reasons for non-installation of connections and by when, registrants would get fresh connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) A total of 68 new telephone connections were provided during the years

2001-03 in the village under P.O. Sansai. In addition there was a registered demand of 71 applicants for fresh telephone connections out of which 26 have been provided the telephone connections and 45 registrants are in the waiting list.

(b) and (c) During last year, 26 subscribers got their demand registered for new telephone connections from far flung areas and they could not be provided telephone connections due to non feasibility. They are likely to get connections progressively before the end of the Financial Year.

FDI sectoral cap in telecom

2570. DR. M.N. DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether following objections raised by the security agencies to increase the FDI sectoral cap in telecom, the Department of Telecommunications has recommended an alternative route of placing FII investments outside the existing sectoral cap subject to an overall cap of 74 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the proposal of 'Universal licence' regime that is to replace the present system of separate licenses for basic, cellular and long distance operations has also been considered;

(c) if so, to what extent these decisions have been approved and finalised; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Investment through Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) is already allowed in the telecom sector within the sectoral caps. A proposal to allow FIIs investment outside the sectoral cap is at the discussion level only, in which various angles, including those relating to security have been included.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has however, issued a Consultation Paper on unified licensing and has invited the comments on the same.

Sale of personal computers

2571. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: